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Board Offers Support for County Government Employees Called to Duty

LAKE COUNTY, IL – At its meeting on Tuesday, April 8th, the Lake County Board gave special recognition to seven county employees who have been called to duty for Operation Iraqi Freedom. The seven employees were called to active duty, while at least ten others are awaiting a possible call to active service.

Lake County Board Chairman Suzi Schmidt has been in contact with the three women and four men who have temporarily left their positions as employees with the county to serve at their posts in the armed forces. Chairman Schmidt sent letters and email to the employees and their families expressing support and encouragement.

“We are extremely proud and grateful of all those who volunteer to serve this country in the armed services, and in particular, this county board recognizes its employees and all county residents who are giving the ultimate sacrifice in the name of democracy and freedom,” said Chairman Schmidt. “The board members, employees and residents of Lake County are praying for the families of the men and women serving in the military and for their safe return.”

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Employees on active duty come from several Lake County departments. Four of the seven are employees of the Lake County Sheriff's Office, one is an employee at the Health Department/Community Health Center, one is an employee at Winchester House and the last is a member of the State's Attorney's Office.

Lake County will pay the employees the difference between their military pay and their county government salary in order to minimize any financial burden on those deployed to active duty. The employees and their families will also continue to receive the county's insurance and retirement benefits while on duty.

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